(e) whether there is any understanding between his Ministry and SCICI in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that SCICI has suggested to his Ministry to abandon the deep-sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, there is a separate section in the Ministry to deal with matters relating to SCICI as the agency for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units.

(d) As soon as a representation is received from an entrepreneur about problems being faced by a unit, decision regarding the same is taken expeditiously in the Ministry and in consultation with SCICI/Ministry of Finance, wherever necesary.

(e) Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited has been functioning as the agency of the Government of India for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee.

(f) No, Sir.

Discard of Shrimp by-catch by East Coast Trawlers

1740. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a FAO study has estimated that the shrimp by-catch discarded by East Coast Trawlers into the Bay of Bengal every year totals nearly 1,20;000 tons;

(b) whether Government have made any plans to utilise this by-catch;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transport such by-catch to urban centres in inland areas; and

(d) whether purchase of this by-catch to asisst the sick units is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Utilisation of by-catch from shrimp trawlers requires study on commercial viability of undertaking such a project. At present their are no plans to take up a project in order to utilise and transport such by-catch to urban areas.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Policy on Food Processing

1741. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national policy on Food Processing has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discussions with all concerned have finished;

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced; and

(e) what is the likely emphasis of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) Action has been initiated for formulating a policy on Food Processing. The policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of Food Processing Industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban

areas reduces post harvest lesses, establish productive linkages between industry and farmers, increase exports of processed foods and generally support productive efforts of agriculture and allied activities.

Scrapping of Trawler charter policy

1742 SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Financial Express dated April 0, 1993 captioned "Trawler charter policy may be scrapped";

(b) the details of compensation proposed to be extended to sick fishing units who applied for charter permits under the 1989 scheme;

(c) whether Government are aware that many sick fishing units of Andhra Pradesh have tried to avail of this scheme; and

(d) what steps are likely to be taken to help sick units being managed by small entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Trawler charter policy may be scrapped" which appeared in the Financial Exress, New Delhi edition dated April 9, 1993.

(b) and (c) There is no specific dispensation for grant of charter permits to sick fishing units.

(d) Rehabilitation assistance was extended to the sick deep sea fishing companies assisted by the erstwhile SDFC under a rehabilitation scheme [illegible] by the Government of India in April, 1991. This rehabilitation scheme, which was drawn up by the Government of India in consultation with the fishing industry, envisaged concessions which included waiver of penal interest, recapitalisation of overdue amounts repayable over the balance economic life of the vessel additional financial assistance for meeting increased cost of acquisition of vessels, financial assistance for repair and re-modification of vessels etc. The above rehabilitation package was further liberalised in June 1992. The above scheme applies to sick deep sea fishing units in the country.

Report by FAO on Deep Sea Fisheries Development

1743. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the report on deep sea fisheries development in India complied by an FAO Consultant in April, 1992;

(b) what is Government's reaction to the report;

(c) whether it is a fact that this FAO report places the commercially exploitable marine resources at a much lower level than is generally assumed by Government agencies thus far; and

(d) what steps are likely to be taken to revive the existing deep-sea shrimp fleet to a sustainable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has accepted the recommendations in the Report.